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Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1993KIGALI04522

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200003723

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ACTION RP-10

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	EUR-01	OIGO-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	FMP-00	/052W	
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P 221440Z DEC 93
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5334
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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STATE FOR RP AND AF/C
GENEVA FOR RMA
YAOUNDE FOR DATT

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREF, EAID, PREL, RW
SUBJECT: BURUNDI REFUGEES: INFLUX AT 400,000

REF: KIGALI 4395

1. SUMMARY: UNHCR, IN CONJUNCTION WITH WFP AND
IFRC, HAS INCREASED ITS PLANNING FIGURE FOR BURUNDI
REFUGEES IN RWANDA TO 400,000. THE DECISION FOLLOWS
NEW INFLUXES AND INCREASING MALNUTRITION RATES. WFP

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 19 NOV 2002 200003723

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AGREED TO INCREASE FOOD QUANTITIES IMMEDIATELY. A REFUGEE CENSUS WILL TAKE PLACE WEEK OF DEC. 27. MORTALITY/MORBIDITY RATES REMAIN HIGH. UNHCR HAS USD 28 MILLION AGAINST ITS 6-MONTH APPEAL FOR USD 52 MILLION. RECOMMEND CONSIDERING NEW U.S. CONTRIBUTION IF SITUATION CONTINUES INTO FEBRUARY. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH AN INFLUX OF 15,000 BURUNDI REFUGEES INTO RWANDA OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS, UNHCR HAS RAISED ITS PLANNING FIGURE TO 400,000 UP FROM 375,000. UNHCR EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FEDDE GROOT TOLD CHARGE THAT AT LEAST ONE CAMP IN THE BUTARE PREFECTURE HAD DOUBLED IN SIZE AS A RESULT OF THIS NEW INFLUX.

3. THE DECISION TO INCREASE THE PLANNING FIGURE FOLLOWED INTENSE DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING UNHCR, THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS (IFRC), AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP). THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS CONDUCTED AN ANALYSIS TO TRY TO EXPLAIN EVER-INCREASING MALNUTRITION RATES IN LIGHT OF AN 1800 KILO CALORIE RATION FOR THE REFUGEES. ON THE

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ONE HAND, THE ORGANIZATIONS NOTED THAT THE INCREASED RATION AUTHORIZED DECEMBER 12 FOLLOWED ONE MONTH OF LOW RATIONS. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WAS NOT FUNCTIONING AS WELL AS IT SHOULD AND THAT THERE WAS A LACK OF BEANS IN THE DIET.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ORGANIZATIONS NOTED THAT MORE THAN 375,000 PEOPLE WERE SHOWING UP FOR DISTRIBUTIONS. THE IFRC HAS RECORDED DISTRIBUTIONS TO 400,000 PEOPLE IN RWANDA'S 21 REFUGEE CAMPS DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS. IN ADDITION TO NEW INFLUXES, UNHCR SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 10,000, ARE COMING FROM BURUNDI TO COLLECT REFUGEE RATIONS.

5. IN LIGHT OF THE NEW PLANNING FIGURE, WFP HAS AGREED TO INCREASE IMMEDIATELY THE QUANTITY OF FOOD FOR DISTRIBUTION. GROOT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE PIPELINE IS STILL A PROBLEM, IN-COUNTRY STOCKS ARE CURRENTLY SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE THE INCREASE FOR ALL COMMODITIES EXCEPT BEANS. UNHCR IS URGING WFP TO

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PURCHASE BEANS OUTSIDE THE REGION AND PLAN AN AIRLIFT, IF NECESSARY, SHOULD AVAILABILITY IN UGANDA CONTINUE TO BE A PROBLEM.

6. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RED CROSS WILL CONDUCT A FORMAL REFUGEE REGISTRATION IN ALL BURUNDI REFUGEE CAMPS DEC. 27-31. GROOT SAID THAT ALL OF THE REGISTRATION MATERIALS HAVE ARRIVED, INCLUDING BENEFICIARY CARDS RESEMBLING PLASTIC CREDIT CARDS WITH A VALIDITY OF THREE MONTHS. 450 REGISTRARS HAVE
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ALREADY BEEN SELECTED AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING TRAINED TO CONDUCT THE REGISTRATION EXERCISE.

7. GROOT TOLD CHARGE THAT MORTALITY RATES IN THE RWANDA REFUGEE CAMPS ARE STILL HIGH, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 180 PERSONS DYING EACH DAY. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT DYSENTERY IS COMING UNDER CONTROL WITH MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY RATES DECREASING. HOWEVER, MEASLES, DESPITE AN 85 PERCENT VACCINATION RATE IN NOVEMBER, IS ACCOUNTING FOR 50 PERCENT OF THE DEATHS. (UNICEF ADVISED USAID THAT DEATH RATES DUE TO MEASLES DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK, SUGGESTING THAT RECENT CASES MAY HAVE BEEN INFECTED BEFORE THE VACCINATION PROGRAM.)

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5335
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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8. UNHCR'S SIX MONTH APPEAL FOR BURUNDI REFUGEES IN
RWANDA, ZAIRE AND TANZANIA NOW TOTALS 52 MILLION
DOLLARS FOR SIX MONTHS. GROOT SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES' HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION, ECHO, HAS
ANNOUNCED A CONTRIBUTION OF 21 MILLION DOLLARS
OR
TWO MONTHS. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTION
AGAINST UNHCR'S APPEAL TO 28 MILLION DOLLARS SO FAR.

9. COMMENT: UNHCR SAYS THAT THE NEXT PLANTING
SEASON IN BURUNDI BEGINS IN EARLY FEBRUARY. IF IT
APPEARS THAT REFUGEE RETURNS WILL BE DELAYED BEYOND
THAT DATE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS RP CONSIDER ANOTHER
DRAWDOWN FROM THE ERMA AGAINST UNHCR'S 6-MONTH
APPEAL. LEADER

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